



THE FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

SATISFACTION NOT LIFE'S END AND AIM

Written Specially for The Bulletin.

"A farmer is never satisfied," says E. W. Howe in Sayings of a Country Town. "Don't expect it."

The assertion is made rather perkily, not to say dogmatically. One isn't asked to consider whether it is so or not, but is informed in the fewest and the most inescapable words that it is so. Ever since I read it, last night, I've been thinking or dreaming about it.

If I wonder if it is really the fact? If it really is, then I wonder whether it's a felony or merely misdemeanor? Or whether, perhaps, it isn't either but is just normal and universal to mankind?

"A farmer is never satisfied," eh? Well, is anybody else? Is John D. Rockefeller?

Perhaps you've heard the story of the eastern king who languished under a mysterious sickness which, his wise men assured him, could never be cured till he dressed himself in the shirt of a wholly happy man. So his agents scoured the kingdom for a perfectly happy man in search for a wholly happy man. They found many who professed they were, but shrewd questioning brought out a different state of mind. Over and over again they returned to the palace to report that they could not find a wholly happy man. Over and over again they were sent back to renew the search. At last, one hot and hopeless day, as their caravan toiled wretchedly along a brooding road, they found a beggar lying in the sun and singing lustily. "Why do you sing?" they asked. "Why shouldn't I?" he responded. "Are you so happy?" they asked. "Perfectly happy," he replied.

So they hurried up the Chief Cross-Examiner of all Cross-Examiners, who proceeded to insult him and lay traps for him and to examine him, and finally, and bullily him and browbeat him, after the usual manner of cross-examiners. But all in vain. There wasn't a thing he didn't have that he wanted; there wasn't a wish in the world he cared to make; there wasn't anything in the way of reward or advancement that he would even look at; so at last the big-wigged Cross-Examiner of all Cross-Examiners had to report to the Head of the Expedition that, at last, they had certainly found a perfectly happy man. Whereupon the Head of the Expedition, bursting through the surrounding ranks of camels and dromedaries and tame elephants and janissaries and bownep and spearmen and private detectives, rushed up to the singer and imperiously demanded his shirt.

"Haven't got any," laughed the happy beggar. And investigation proved that he hadn't.

There are several morals, it seems to me, in this oriental apologue. One is that when the doctors don't know what's the matter with you, they generally order you to Florida or Colorado, or bid you do something or get something impossible. This—when you can't do it or get it—relieves them from responsibility for the result.

Another moral is that you can't have what doesn't exist, no matter whether you're a multimillionaire or an eastern king sitting high on a throne of royal state.

Another is that happiness consists, not in having things you want so much as in not wanting things you don't happen to have.

Another, perhaps, might be that it's more comfortable to be a lazy, lousy beggar than a working and worrying farmer.

Take your pick. Or hunt up any other you may be able to find in it.

Personally, I'm not so much interested.

There are several morals, it seems to me, in this oriental apologue. One is that when the doctors don't know what's the matter with you, they generally order you to Florida or Colorado, or bid you do something or get something impossible. This—when you can't do it or get it—relieves them from responsibility for the result.

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LETTERS FROM TWO STATES

New London County

OCCUM AND VERSAILLES

Services in the Churches on Christmas Sunday—Christmas Day—Punctual Pupils Rewarded—General Topics.

The Christmas services at St. Joseph's church Monday were of special interest, the music being a feature of both masses. At the 8 o'clock mass a chorus of young voices under the direction of Washington LePage was pleasing to the large congregation. At the 10 o'clock mass Rev. Frederic R. H. DesSautures delivered an eloquent Christmas sermon. The music was under the direction of Mrs. A. E. Quinn. The church was effectively decorated by Dennis Welch, Arthur DesSautures and Essex Cassavant.

Exercises of M. E. Sunday School.

The Versailles M. E. church held Christmas tree exercises in the vestry Friday evening. Preceding the distribution of presents, the following pleasing program was rendered: Violin solo, Alfred Baldwin, accompanied on the piano by F. E. Howell; Who Is It? Elsie Currier, Mildred Phillips, Gladys Carlson, Lizzie Bender, Iva Richards, Francis Filler, Teddy Lambert, Josephine Lamb, Edmund Mathewson; recitation, Mildred Phillips, Hilda Filler, Elsie Currier; song by the members of the school, "The Christmas Tree," Christmas Stocking, Oberline Lambert; Christmas Speech, James Currier; recitation, Albert Phillips; cornet duet, Harry Sengman and John Allen; recitation, Iva Richards; I Wonder, Herbert Richards; recitation, Walter Selfert; Merry Christmas, Harry Allen and Teddy Lambert; duet, Ruth Allen and Ethel Richards.

Eugene Currier Impersonated Santa Claus, adding much to the pleasure of the younger members.

Mr. Currier was assisted in the distribution of presents by the members of Mrs. C. W. Perkins' class of boys.

One of the features of the evening was the presenting of members of the school awards for perfect attendance during the year, as follows:

Annie Browne, Annie Hedder, Jane Lambert, Lillian Bender, Bobbie Edith Phillips, Alma Boutiller, Mabel Lambert, Oberline Lambert, Kurt Selfert, Alfred Baldwin, John Krumholz, Willie Selfert, Herbert Richards and Harry Baldwin.

Christmas Sunday Services.

At the Versailles M. E. church Sunday Rev. Charles Smith delivered an able Christmas sermon. A choir of female voices sang the Christmas music.

Miss Jeanne Smith was at the organ at both services of the day. The concert given in the evening drew a full house and won praise for both the committee having charge and the members of the school. The music committee consisted of Misses Jessie Sengman, Anna Frohman. The program consisted of songs, H. E. LePage, H. A. Richards and Miss Cora L. Tarbox.

The program included: Responsive hymns; hymn, "The Christmas Song"; song No. 1, school; Welcome, Edith Phillips; Who Is It? Elsie Currier, Mildred Phillips, Ethel Richards, Elizabeth Bender, Iva Richards, Francis Filler, Teddy Lambert, Josephine Lambert, Lizzie Bender and Edmund Mathewson; solo, A Christmas Lullaby, by Jessie Sengman; recitation, Mildred Phillips; I Wonder, Herbert Richards; song No. 2, school; solo, A Dear Little Stranger, Ruth Allen; recitation, Elsie Mathewson; song No. 3, school; Christmas Tree, Mildred Phillips; Christmas Stocking, Oberline Lambert; solo, Snowflakes, Ethel Richards; Merry Christmas, Harry Allen and Teddy Lambert; song No. 3, school; There's a Wonderful Child, Helen Mell; song, primary class; Message of the Bells, Herman Czikowski; Helen Lawton, Genevieve Bennett, Edna Lawton, Pray, Lillian, Mabel Lambert, Donald Allen; song No. 10, school; recitation, Iva Richards; Five Little Evergreen, Helen Alfreda, Clifford Benson, George Benson, Albert Mathewson, Irving Allen, Clifford Mell; I Wonder, Herbert Richards; solo, Dolly and I, Oberline Lambert; story of the Star, Lillian Tarbox; class; New Stars for Jesus, Ethel Phillips, George Czikowski, Adolph Czikowski, Oscar Mathewson, Jennie Lambert, Walter Nancy James, Mary Babbitt; Christmas Speech, James Currier; In a Manger So Low, Ethel Richards; On a Christmas Day, Mildred Phillips; song No. 14, school; Tommy's Prayer, Clifford Mell; Christmas Crowds, Gertrude Topf; song No. 16, school; recitation, Albert Mathewson; Givings, Ruth Allen; collection; closing song, school.

Village Interests.

Death on Tuesday morning removed one of Occum's old residents, George W. Benker, a resident of the village for the past quarter of a century.

Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Wood of Anthony, E. L. W. G. Tripp of South Coventry are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Perkins.

Mrs. Charles Blanchard is suffering from the results of blood poisoning in her left thumb.

Frank Pich escaped serious injury as the result of the skidding of his truck on the macadam road between this village and Taftville when the truck rolled, plunging over the steep bank and landing but a short distance from the edge of the pond of the Ponemah mills.

ASHWILLETT

Santa Claus' Whiskers Take Fire at Christmas Entertainment—Pulled Off and Thrown into the Stove.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan N. Main entertained their children and grandchildren Christmas day.

Miss Emma Johnson, a graduate from New London county, spent Christmas eve and Christmas day with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Main.

D. E. Vergason and family entertained relatives from Norwich over Christmas day.

Gilbert Miner and son, Gilbert, of Jewett City were Christmas guests of Mrs. Julia A. Crumb and C. F. Hayward.

Amasa A. Morgan has gone to spend the winter in Shattuck, Minn.

Amasa Main moved the first of the week to the S. P. Eggleston house, where is his chopping wood.

Santa's Whiskers Caught Fire.

There was a Christmas tree and candles Saturday night at the schoolhouse. While Edwin Webb of Williamsville and Florence Vickers of Putnam.

Harry Gullie's whiskers took fire and the teacher, Willard Eccleston, pulled them from his face and threw them in the stove, so no one suffered any harm.

Dog Lived To Be 13.

Ben, the Irish setter, which C. F. Hayward has had a number of years, died Christmas day from the effects of age and asthma. He was thirteen years old.

These cold days keep the men at the wood sheds.

Not Too Soon.

It looks as though the British Empire had gone home for the common manager plan of government, too. And probably not too soon—Kansas City Star.

Windham County

CANTERBURY PLAINS

Pastor Preaches On Beautiful Theme—Exercises at Church and Day School—Sudden Death of Mrs. J. F. Speerli.

Rev. A. Manship preached an interesting Christmas sermon to a large audience last Sunday morning. His text was Matthew 2:11. "And they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened his treasures they presented unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrror."

Christmas Exercises.

The following exercises were held in the church Christmas night, a very large audience attending. Christmas Greeting by Ina Larsen; Christmas Greetings, Rosa and Esther Hagopian; Merry Christmas, Evelyn Christian; On the King, Ernest Hansen; Tap, Tap for four girls; song, Corinne Barr. There was no room for Jesus, Florence Christian; duet, Redeemer, Divine, Mrs. Emily Louche and Gladys Bushnell; Christmas Snowflakes, Annie Hansen; Winter, Richard and William Parkhurst; Learning to Spell, Lawrence Utter; Little Boy, George and George Combe; Why Christ Came, Charlie Eastland; Santa Claus, Conrad Grabble; recitation, Alfred Utter; Advance, Evelyn Christian; Christmas Dreams, Elena Benson; Bessie's Christmas Story, Gertrude Hansen; Way Stockings are Hung Up, Raymond Parkhurst; Santa's Flat, Tella Bennett; Tommy's Prayer, Mary Maki; recitation, Elsie Combs; The Christmas Saint, Mattie Bennett; Little Christmas, Mrs. Hansen; Naughty Doll, Evelyn Christian; singing, Santa's Coming, Estella and Mattie Bennett.

One of the features of the evening was the presenting of members of the school awards for perfect attendance during the year, as follows: Annie Browne, Annie Hedder, Jane Lambert, Lillian Bender, Bobbie Edith Phillips, Alma Boutiller, Mabel Lambert, Oberline Lambert, Kurt Selfert, Alfred Baldwin, John Krumholz, Willie Selfert, Herbert Richards and Harry Baldwin.

Exercises at School.

Miss Gladys Bushnell held Christmas exercises last Thursday afternoon only a few being out to them, owing to bad weather. Santa appeared at the close of the exercises and gave each child a Christmas present. The teacher has labored hard to make this term work a success.

Mrs. Mabel Nelson and children of Hartford and her brother of New York spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sackett.

Mrs. Clayton Perry and family are spending the holidays at Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Perry's.

Fred Hicks and Grace Dawley spent Christmas with the latter's sister, Mrs. J. Perkins of Jewett City.

Roy Barlow and family spent Christmas at George Barlow's.

Clement Bushnell of New London and Arthur Bushnell of South Williston spent Christmas with their mother, Mrs. Emily Bushnell.

Harold Carr is spending his vacation with his mother, Mrs. Carrie Carr.

BROOKLYN

Congregational Sunday School Elects Officers—Parish Supper, Tree and Entertainment.

The officers elected to represent the Congregational Sunday school of Brooklyn for the year 1917 are: John F. Meyer, superintendent; Mrs. Sherman Russell, assistant superintendent; Miss Florence Russell, secretary; Miss Dorothy Blake, assistant secretary and treasurer; Miss Ella Lawton, librarian; Miss Stella Lawrence, clerk; Miss Daisy Meyer, organist. The Sunday school has added twenty-three new pupils during the year 1916. Gold medals were awarded the following pupils: Helen Ward, Charles Perker, Charles and Robert Cooper; those who have been present for the last two years and have a crown added to their gold pieces, are: Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Lawton, Miss Catherine Lawton, Miss Mary Crosby, Mrs. Oliver F. Downey, Eugene Downey, Charles Scott and Bessie Page, and John F. Meyer.

Parish Supper and Tree.

The parish supper and Christmas tree entertainment was held at the chapel Tuesday evening and was a great success. Largely due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Downey, who was chairman of the supper committee. The supper was greatly enjoyed by one of the largest gatherings of the church. Singing and recitations by the children of the school please all attending. Miss Nina Oschman of Boston, from the School of Expression, gave a reading and being encored, gave a few comic selections which were more than enjoyed by the members and friends of the school.

At the close of the entertainment Santa appeared and presented each child and those present a present, also a box of candy and an orange. The pastor and his wife gave presents from members of the church and school.

Personal Items.

Miss Nina Oschman of Boston spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Meyer.

Mrs. John F. Meyer and daughter, Ardie, are spending a few days at South Coventry at the home of Mrs. John B. Smith.

Raymond Kinnmonth of Tufts college is spending the holidays with his parents, Rev. A. Kinnmonth and Mrs. A. E. Kinnmonth.

SCOTLAND

Christmas Boxes Sent to Children—Auction at John McCarthy's Farm.

A short Christmas program was held Friday night, the 22nd, in Grange hall, after which oranges, pop-corn and candy were distributed. There were twenty Christmas boxes distributed to the children, sent here to the Sunday school by James McGee.

Christmas Visitors.

Several out of town visitors were here with relatives over Christmas among those were: Elmer and Howard of Springfield, Mass.; Harold and Earl Kenyon, of Williamsville; Miss Charles Lovering, of Portsmouth, Mass.; Edwin and Edwin Webb of Williamsville and Florence Vickers of Putnam.

Mrs. Mary Lathrop went Wednesday to Norwich, where she will spend the rest of the winter.

Auction Sale.

John McCarthy sold his farming implements, horses and some household furniture at auction here Tuesday, the 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clark of Hartford spent Christmas with relatives here.

William Adams, who has been at St. Joseph's hospital, Williamsville, has been removed to the home of F. P. Tracy.

Seventy-six American cities have public employment bureaus.

Next Week AUDITORIUM

Biggest Bargain Show Ever Seen in Norwich

The Strand Musical Comedy Co.

14 PEOPLE with

FELIX MARTIN THE CELEBRATED FRENCH COMEDIAN

ASSISTED BY

ROSE EMMETT, JACK SHAW and A BEVY OF PRETTY GIRLS

CATCHY MUSIC SPECIAL SCENERY NIFTY COSTUMES

A FEAST OF MIRTH AND MERRIMENT

HENRY B. WALTHALL and BLANCHE SWEET in the Gangsters of New York

"IN DOUBT" Screaming Comedy | Matinee and Night, Main Floor, 10c A FULL TWO-HOUR SHOW AT 2.30, 7 and 9 P. M.

A COMPLETE CHANGE OF SHOW—PICTURES AND ALL—MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

FOUR SHOWS MONDAY 1.30, 3, 7, 8.30

COMING MONDAY AND TUESDAY

PARAMOUNT—JESSE L. LASKY PRESENTS—PICTURES

THE DAINTY FILM STAR MARIE DORA

in "COMMON GROUND"

BY MARION FAIRFAX

PATHE WEEKLY CHRISTIE COMEDY

WOODSTOCK

Theft Detecting Society Elects Officers—Funeral of Mrs. Henry K. Safford—Christmas Play.

Miss Gretchen Rutishauser, a nurse at the Clifton Springs Sanitarium is home on a vacation.

Miss Louise Howard has returned from a visit to her brother in Hartford.

H. W. Bowen is confined to the house by illness.

Harry Child was a Christmas guest at Valleydale.